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ENGLISH FOR TEENS

**AGE
13-15**

Cuprins

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I. Letters and Sounds in Words

A. English is English!

Learning English means learning two languages, actually: the spoken one and the written one. Unlike Romanian, there are few words in which the letter-sound correspondence is perfect. Moreover, the numerous exceptions to the established rules make things even more difficult. Practice proves that those who master the written form of the language are more likely to master the spoken one as well.



Exercise 1

a. Read the following pairs of words paying attention to the difference between the sounds [e] and [æ] represented in most cases by the letters *e* and *a*.

Ex.: pet – pat

Underline the words which do not observe this rule when it comes to spelling. Look up the words you do not know.

mess – mass	ten – tan	dead – dad	led – lad	shell – shall
then – than	set – sat	letter – latter	bed – bad	ate – at
lend – land	bet – bat	beg – bag	men – man	head – had
peck – pack	merry – marry	send – sand	said – sad	pen – pan

b. Read the following pairs of words paying attention to the difference between the sounds [i] and [i:]. In most cases the sound [i:] is represented graphically by the groups of letters *ee* and *ea*.

Ex.: rid – reed/read

Underline the exceptions to this rule. Look up the words you do not know.

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

bit – beat	fill – feel	fit – feet	did – deed	rich – reach
list – least	lid – lead	sit – seat	sin – scene	is – ease
it – eat	this – these	will – wheel	skim – scheme	sick – seek
still – steal	hit – heat	pick – peak	slip – sleep	bin – been/bean



Exercise 2

a. Read the following pairs of words. As you see, the sounds [ʌ] and [a:] are generally represented graphically by the letters *u*, respectively *ar*.

Ex.: luck – lark

Yet other letters or groups of letters can be pronounced like them. Underline such words if you come across them.

duck – dark	buck – bark	cut – cart	hut – heart	hush – harsh
much – march	hum – harm	come – calm	bun – barn	cuff – calf

b. Which of the following words are pronounced with [ʌ] and which with [a:]?

after, half, brother, come, laugh, dance, cover, love, butt, task, last, country, Monday, father, other, dove, pass, monk, answer, mask

[ʌ]

[a:]



Exercise 3

Read the following pairs of words. The sound [ɔ] is graphically represented by the letter *o*. (Ex.: *box, lot, pod*.) The groups of letters *or, our, oar, ore* are generally pronounced [ɔ:]. (Ex.: *lord, pour, board, store*.)

In most cases the contrast between the two sounds looks/sounds like this: *spot – sport*.

What other groups of letters do you identify as being pronounced [ɔ:]? Underline them.

cod – cord	cot – court	don – dawn	cock – cork	not – nought
pot – port	shot – short	cot – caught	sot – salt	cops – corpse



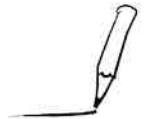
Exercise 4

Read the following words and then introduce each of them in the column they belong to according to the first vowel you identify. There are three words per sound.

busy, love, piece, fault, third, afraid, matter, two, fast, bury, freedom, call, bush, health, that, plum, inn, fur, least, ago, shoe, floor, cushion, goddess, begin, lose, bother, shook, birth, flood, attend, carry, card, ready, long, branch

- [e]
- [æ]
- [ʌ]
- [a:]
- [i]
- [i:]
- [ɔ]
- [ɔ:]
- [u]
- [u:]
- [ə]
- [ə:]

Exercise 5



It is amazing how words come out of words and how they develop into other words by simply adding or taking away one letter only.

Ex.: If we place the letter *s* at the very beginning of the following 30 words we will get another 30.

In some cases this may lead to a change of sounds. Which of them?

hare, leek, crew, pear, hire, hoe, kid, how, tale, core, lick, lid, late, tick, well, pit, take, crap, way, hip, tray, till, lap, tool, pill, pot, nail, lot, cream, kill

a. Try to find the words that undergo the same modification if you use one of the given letters: *b, c, d, f, g, k, p, t, w, y*. In which of them do you identify a striking change of sounds? In some cases the addition does not modify the pronunciation at all; underline them.

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

hair, rock, rest, not, late, rind, raw, round, harm, last, leak, link, heat, earn, rash, night, hole, lace, hip, rook, rid, lass, new, here, rush, hill, lean, lute, ram, hen, lap, rap, lot, ring, rate, right, ray, rend, hat, now

b. See how many words you can build like this starting from the following ones using whichever consonant letter or *w-*, *y-*.

law, urn, ride, lame, arm, aid, reed, ace, itch, eel, owl, rain, row, read, lay, rim, rail, each, air, low, oil, ass, east, ale, ask, age, and, own, ape, art

Ex.: *claw/flaw, burn/turn, bride/pride*

Notice again the alteration of sounds that appears in some cases (such as *warm, said, bowl, bass, wand, down, gown, town*).

c. Most helpful in this respect are words such as: *one, end, ink, our, ark, ate, ire, eat, old, all, in, at, are, ash, ore, ail, ear, ill*. Make your lists – the more words, the better.

Ex.: *bone/done/gone/lone/none/tone; bend/fend/lend/mend/send/tend*

Notice again the sound alteration in words such as: *bone, none, four, pour, tour, wear, wash, bear, pear, wear* etc. (especially if we take into consideration the BE pronunciation for *ate* and the pair of homophones *tear* [tiə/teə]).

d. When it comes to letters that can be added to existent words, *-e* is the most frequent. This causes the change of the short vowel in front of the final consonant of the given word into a diphthong or into a long vowel.

Ex.: *fad – fade; dam – dame; gap – gape
din – dine; dim – dime; grim – grime
dot – dote; rob – robe; pop – pope
cub – cube; cut – cute; mut – mute*

Notice the changes in pronunciation in the following cases: *ton – tone; run – rune; cast – caste; met – mete; bath – bathe; lath – lathe; breath – breathe; wreath – wreathe*.

Write down the words you can get by adding *-e* to the following ones.

sit, kit, mat, tub, rod, rat, tap, bit, hop, rid, man, past, slid, fat, cod, win, mad, con, fin, can, bad, pin, nap, slop, strip

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

Exercise 6



Odd One Out

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - dove, cove, above, love | - took, could, put, blood |
| - come, drove, bone, stove | - brother, bother, other, mother |
| - drew, grew, few, threw | - mint, pint, lint, tint |
| - lost, post, host, most | - lone, bone, gone, cone |
| - tool, food, good, moon | - shone, done, son, none |
| - chair, chain, chaos, chat | - tread, thread, bead, bread |
| - cool, brooch, fool, school | - chamber, child, chalet, chore |
| - fuse, cube, rule, tube | - doe, shoe, toe, foe |
| - thunder, thirty, through, thyme | - cough, enough, rough, tough |



Exercise 7

a. Make your own spelling lists.

- For *c* in *cat*, write *b, ch, f, h, m, p, r, s*.
- For *n* in *nut*, write *b, c, h, j, sh*.
- For *h* in *hop*, write *c, m, p, t, sh* (st, cr, dr, pr).
- For *r* in *rug*, write *b, d, h, j, m, t*.
- For *f* in *fall*, write *b, c, h, m, t, w* (sm).
- For *p* in *pick*, write *k, l, s, t* (st, th).
- For *s* in *sing*, write *k, r, w* (th, br).
- For *d* in *day*, write *b, h, l, m, p, r, w* (aw, st).
- For *t* in *tap*, write *c, l, m, r, s* (fl, ch).
- For *f* in *fun*, write *b, g, n, p, r, s*.
- For *h* in *hill*, write *b, d, f, g, k, m, n, p, r, s, t, w* (st, sp).
- For *s* in *side*, write *r, t, w* (ch).
- For *m* in *mind*, write *b, f, h, k, r, w*.
- For *s* in *set*, write *b, g, j, l, m, n, p, w*.
- For *b* in *bad*, write *d, f, l, m, p, s*.
- For *h* in *hang*, write *b, f, g, p, r, s*.
- For *d* in *dog*, write *b, c, f, h, j, l*.
- For *k* in *kid*, write *b, d, h, l, m*.
- For *n* in *night*, write *f, l, m, n, r, s, t*.
- For *t* in *try*, write *c, d, f, p*.

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

b. You can try to do the same by using groups of consonants such as: *th, sh, ch, st, sl, cr, dr, pr, sm, br, cl, fl, wh, sp*, etc.

Ex.: cat – chat; hop – shop; fall – small; pick – thick;
sing – bring; day – stay; tap – flap

c. Find your own solutions to the following words.

lie, bare, sit, tend, lot, mine, man, dust, tire, fast, yell, best, matter

d. Which words rhyme?

job, far, dye, knob, sour, many, wren, who, stag, then, rob, stair, any, knock, tower, when, are, you, jar, rock, where, true, rag, penny, flag, shock, flour, why, fair, sigh, feed, spoon, read, wrote, peach, caught, weed, broad, knee, pour, bait, stage, moon, age, rage, soon, more, late, boat, three, teach, fault, goat, word, each, sword, tea, nought, eight, roar

half, dumb, done, beet, pain, own, cheer, feast, laugh, mess, drum, calf, sun, wheat, been, won, bone, least, here, lean, near, reign, yes, bless, crumb, beast, neat, scene, sane, loan

Exercise 8



Write down words with double letters.

a. They must be words that have not got endings or suffixes whatsoever.

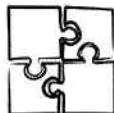
Ex.: rabbit, accident, ladder, keen, cuff, dagger, smell, commit, banner, cook, copper, ferry, lesson, letter, puzzle

b. These must be adjectives or verbs that have got endings.

Ex.: bigger, sitting, travelled, thinnest, stopped, preferring, regretted, permitting

c. These must be words that have got suffixes or prefixes in the process of word building.

Ex.: admittance, occurrence, immoral, marvellous, robbery, tactfully, irresponsible, acquittal, meanness, illegal



Exercise 9

a. How many words can you build using the given letters?

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. ___ s s | 6. _____ l e | 11. ___ t e | 16. ___ l k |
| 2. _____ e r | 7. ___ c h | 12. ___ g h t | 17. ___ m p |
| 3. _____ y | 8. ___ g h | 13. ___ e w | 18. ___ i n |
| 4. ___ c k | 9. _____ g e | 14. ___ t h | 19. ___ n g |
| 5. ___ e e _ | 10. ___ o o _ | 15. ___ s e | 20. ___ l d |

b. What words are these? Unjumble them. All of them are nouns. (The first letter of each word is given.) Their definitions can help you. Match the columns.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. PSMOATN | a. He brings mail. |
| 2. BDAKLCRIB | b. It flies and is native to Europe. |
| 3. SETCENEN | c. It must have a subject and a predicate. |
| 4. CIMYNHE | d. It lets smoke out. |
| 5. BKTALEN | e. It covers us when we feel cold. |
| 6. BSMAENET | f. It is under the ground floor. |
| 7. LLYABLU | g. It will make a baby fall asleep. |
| 8. WREHTAE | h. It is warm or cool, hot or cold. |
| 9. CUYNRET | i. One hundred years. |
| 10. CRUETAER | j. A being. |
| 11. QARETUR | k. One fourth. |
| 12. RWANIOB | l. It has seven colours. |
| 13. WRSTLREE | m. He is a kind of fighter. |
| 14. DFOAFIDL | n. Britain's national flower. |
| 15. QYLAUTI | o. This makes goods more expensive. |



Exercise 10

Fill the gaps with the right letters according to the meaning of the necessary words.

- a.
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. S _____ s are bright red fruit. | 4. Steep c _____ s are high above the sea. |
| 2. T _____ s have the same birthday. | 5. Glue s _____ s things together. |
| 3. Coats b _____ n at the front. | 6. Horses do not like t _____ t reins. |

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

7. N _ _ _ _ _ s have sharp points.
 8. T _ _ _ _ _ s are towed behind cars.
 9. C _ _ _ _ s can lift heavy loads.
 10. Match boxes are o _ _ _ _ g.
 11. Cotton wool is f _ _ _ _ y.
 12. V _ _ _ _ t is soft and smooth.
 13. Sandpaper feels r _ _ _ h.
 14. Knives have sharp b _ _ _ _ s.
 15. Canoes have c _ _ _ _ d sides.
 16. We can rule s _ _ _ _ _ t lines.
 17. A l _ _ _ e knot will come undone.
 18. Seals can swim b _ _ _ w the ice.
 19. U _ _ _ _ e apples taste sour.
 20. Two halves make a w _ _ _ e.
 21. Only a few people live in the d _ _ _ _ t.
 22. Hoops and w _ _ _ _ s are round.
 23. A s _ _ _ _ e has four equal sides.
 24. W _ _ _ _ _ s are measured in pounds in Britain.
 25. Jets are noisy a _ _ _ _ _ t.
 26. Boats have keels at the b _ _ _ _ m.
 27. The b _ _ _ h is dry at low tide.
 28. Television a _ _ _ _ _ s are long and thin.
 29. In houses kitchens are d _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ s.
 30. W _ _ _ _ _ s swim in deep water.
- b.
1. Wet roads are _ _ _ pp _ _ _ .
 2. Meat roasts in a hot _ _ _ en.
 3. Country _ _ _ _ es are often narrow.
 4. A _ _ _ _ er is a big ship.
 5. A snail lives inside a _ _ _ ll.
 6. _ _ _ _ _ rs wear white uniforms.
 7. *White* _ _ _ ym _ _ _ with *right*.
 8. He sold his bike ch _ _ _ _ .
 9. Help yourself to some _ _ _ dd _ _ _ .
 10. The garden needs _ ee _ _ _ _ .
 11. The doll has rosy _ _ _ _ _ ks.
 12. My _ _ ju _ _ _ still hurts.
 13. They took sh _ _ _ _ _ in the cave.
 14. He was a brave _ _ _ di _ _ _ in the war.
 15. The nest is on that high _ _ _ _ _ ch.
 16. _ _ _ tl _ _ _ are old buildings.
 17. A paddling pool is _ _ _ ll _ _ _ .
 18. The back of a stamp is _ _ _ ck _ _ _ .
 19. A _ _ _ _ _ ge goes over a river.
 20. _ _ tt _ _ _ have silky fur.
 21. Happy is the _ pp _ _ _ _ _ of sad.
 22. A _ _ _ ht is a light boat with sails.
 23. Put milk on the corn _ _ ak _ _ _ .
 24. _ _ _ ce four is eight.
 25. Give me a _ _ mm _ _ _ to nail this.
 26. I hate th _ _ _ _ _ storms.
 27. I adore lilies-of-the-va _ _ _ _ _ .
 28. The _ _ _ _ _ ss refused to testify.
 29. This _ _ gg _ _ _ is too heavy for you.
 30. She is a very _ _ _ _ _ th _ _ _ _ _ lady.

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

C.

1. In the picnic basket there were many s _____ s.
2. The thieves stole some valuable j _____ y.
3. The doctor told his patient to put out his t _____ e.
4. Weight lifters have very strong m _____ s.
5. The soldiers were drilled by a s _____ t.
6. A river of ice is called a g _____ r.
7. Eventually, he opted for a sailing h _____ y.
8. Below the house there was a c _____ r.
9. We read books to gain k _____ e.
10. Witches are supposed to fly on b _____ s.
11. Grandma bought a modern sewing m _____ e.
12. The line which divides the world into equal parts is called the e _____ r.
13. The girl dried her tears with her h _____ f.
14. An unmarried man is called a b _____ r.
15. Feeling sorry for him I tried to show my s _____ y.
16. At a football match the man with the whistle is the r _____ e.
17. He fell and skinned the k _____ s of his hand.
18. When you do wrong your c _____ e tells you so.
19. I bought a m _____ e to read on the train.
20. We buy milk from the d _____ y.
21. A line of people waiting to buy tickets is called a q _____ e.
22. If you do this for me I will feel much o _____ d to you.
23. The ship was tied up to the q _____ y.
24. The fisherman caught a large s _____ n.
25. In the orchestra there were fifty m _____ s.



Exercise 11

Put in capital letters and the necessary punctuation signs in the following texts.

1. the crocodile lives in the mud banks of rivers in india and in some parts of africa his huge body grows to a length of about thirty feet people sometimes hunt him for his tough skin which makes very good leather he has four short legs and can walk quite well on land but he can swim far more quickly than he can walk

Respect pentru oameni și cărți

2. have you ever seen a fly caught in a spider's web have you noticed how quickly the spider rushes out after the fly is caught how does the spider know that a fly is in her web does she hear it does she see it
3. boom boom we jumped to our feet our hearts beating with excitement was this a friendly warship coming to our assistance
4. it was an unusual sight for me to see my companion in tears what could i say to him i tried to speak but the words refused to pass my lips
5. you have all heard of the famous niagara falls several men have tried to go over these falls in barrels in nearly every case the barrels were smashed to pieces against the rocks and the men in them killed or drowned the only man who ever succeeded in going over the falls was captain webb later he lost his life in trying to swim across the rapids just below the falls
6. i am enjoying myself very much I said but I must not stay too long we shall all be leaving soon he replied
7. i am anxious about him said peter he should have been here two or three hours ago don't worry said jack he knows how to take care of himself
8. they shouted to him and asked why have you waked us up in the middle of the night with all this noise is anyone taking away your sheep or your goats he looked at them but made no reply
9. do you think you will pass the examination asked alice well i suppose have a good chance replied jane when is it asked alice on monday said jane
10. we are going to climb the mountain said bill would you like to come with us isn't it rather dangerous replied george not a bit answered bill